

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SNM-02 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 SY-04 FBIE-00 /027 W

----- 041410

R 151600Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL CALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1233

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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BOGOTA FOR DEA; CARACAS FOR LEGATT

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CFED

SUBJ: CHECK FORGERY RING

1. THE CONSULATE HAS RECEIVED IN CONFIDENCE INFORMATION FROM A PROMINENT LOCAL CURRENCY DEALER REGARDING WHAT APPEARS TO BE A RING OF PERSONS WHO ALTER U. S. BANK MONEY ORDERS. THE CURRENCY DEALER RECENTLY ACCEPTED AND CASHED FIVE BANK-ISSUED PERSONAL MONEY ORDERS, FOUR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1000 AND ONE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500. ALL WERE RETURNED BY THE ISSUING BANKS WITH THE EXPLANATION THAT THEY HAD BEEN ISSUED IN THE AMOUNTS OF \$1 AND \$5, RESPECTIVELY, AND APPARENTLY ALTERED. THE CURRENCY DEALER'S INVESTIGATION LED HIM TO BELIEVE THAT A LOCAL NARCOTICS RING IS DISTRIBUTING THESE CHECKS, AND PAYING FOR THEIR MERCHANDISE WITH THE PROCEEDS. THE CURRENCY DEALER'S INVESTIGATION HAS RESULTED IN THREATS OF DEATH AGAINST HIM.

2. ALL THE CHECKS WERE DRAWN TO THE ORDER OF ONE STELLA GARCIA, AND ARE SIGNED BY ALBERTO ROBLEDO, 432 W. CRYSTAL AVENUE, LOMBARD, NEW JERSEY 60148. THREE CHECKS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1000 EACH, WERE DRAWN ON BRANCHES OF THE CHEMICAL BANK: 59 WEST 86TH ST.(COLOMBUS AVENUE), 2260 BROADWAY (81ST STREET),
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AND TWO PENNSYLVANIA PLAZA (7TH AVENUE AT 33RD ST.), NEW YORK.

ALL WERE CASHED ON DECEMBER 19, 1974.
ONE CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1000 WAS CASHED ON DECEMBER 30,
1974, DRAWN ON THE FRANKLIN NATIONAL BANK, NEW YORK, AND ONE
CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500 WAS CASHED ON DECEMBER 21,
1974, DRAWN ON THE FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK.
ALL OF THE MONEY ORDERS WERE RETURNED WITH NOTIFICATION
THAT THE AMOUNTS HAD BEEN ALTERED FROM \$1 AN \$5, RESPECTIVELY.
PHOTOCOPIES OF THESE CHECKS WILL BE POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROPRIATE AGENCIES MAY WISH TO INTER-
VIEW THE CURRENCY DEALER IN CALI TO ASCERTAIN FURTHER INFORMA-
TION. ALTHOUGH HE STATES HE HAS NOTIFIED THE BANKS INVOLVED,
AGENCIES MAY ALSO WISH TO INITIATE THEIR OWN INVESTIGATION
WITH THE BANKS. KERR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CALI00022
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750016-0415
From: CALI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750151/aaaabssb.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHECK FORGERY RING
TAGS: CFED
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006